A DELL COMIC

DELL

A DELL COMIC

APRIL-MAY

10¢

HENRY ALDRICH

Comics

Henry Aldrich PIONEER

"Hah, didn't even make the squad, eh, Aldrich?" said George Bigelow, throwing down his first baseman's mitt. He was joining the gang at the Centerville soda fountain after school.

Henry Aldrich gulped through his straw and colored slightly. "Ah . . . as a matter of fact, George," he answered, slowly, "I wasn't particularly interested. Sports aren't everything in school, y'know. After all, there are other things as important as chasing a little old ball around. . . ."

"Such as . . . ?" George cracked.

"W-well," said Henry, frowning, "there are those subjects which teach us self-reliance and initiative, for instance. After all, schools build character and that's what I'm interested in. . . ."

"Hear, hear!" laughed George, "where'd you get that stuff anyway?"

Henry was warming to his subject. "From our forefathers, George, the pioneers, the early settlers. *They* didn't go around playing baseball. They wrested a livelihood from the soil. They were concerned with clearing the land, plowing the soil, building homes . . ."

George interrupted, "And what are you going to do, Henry? Build a log cabin? Haw, haw!"

"No, I'm not, George, but I'll tell you what I *am* going to do," Henry answered deliberately. "I'm going to start my own *vegetable garden!*" And he tore open a package he'd been carrying and spilled out a bunch of brightly colored packets of seeds on the table.

George's eyes popped.

Homer Brown clapped his hands. "Ye-ay, Henry," he cried, "Bravo!"

"It's time you boys did something constructive," said Geraldine Love. "Good for you, Henry!"

"But, please," she added, as Henry smiled proudly, "no beans. I loathe them, all kinds, string, lima, soy, all of them. And besides they're the cheapest vegetables. It isn't worthwhile to raise them."

Henry laughed. "Sure, Geraldine," he said, gathering up the envelope of seeds, "I wasn't going to plant beans anyway."

****

The next afternoon, Henry was hard at work digging in his garden when who should show up but George Bigelow.

"Hi, Henry, just dropped by," he said warmly. "Real interested in your project."

"Say," he added, looking around, "you haven't already planted the seeds, have you?"

"Oh, no, George," said Henry, and he explained that they were still on the shelf on the back porch.

Before George left, he spent some time there on the porch, inspecting each seed packet. This interest by George Bigelow, of all people, pleased Henry very much.

****

The Henry Aldrich garden soon became a subject of no little importance. Each morning, Henry would report on its progress to a considerable portion of Centerville High.

Then, one day, Henry brought in great news—little bits of green were beginning to appear!

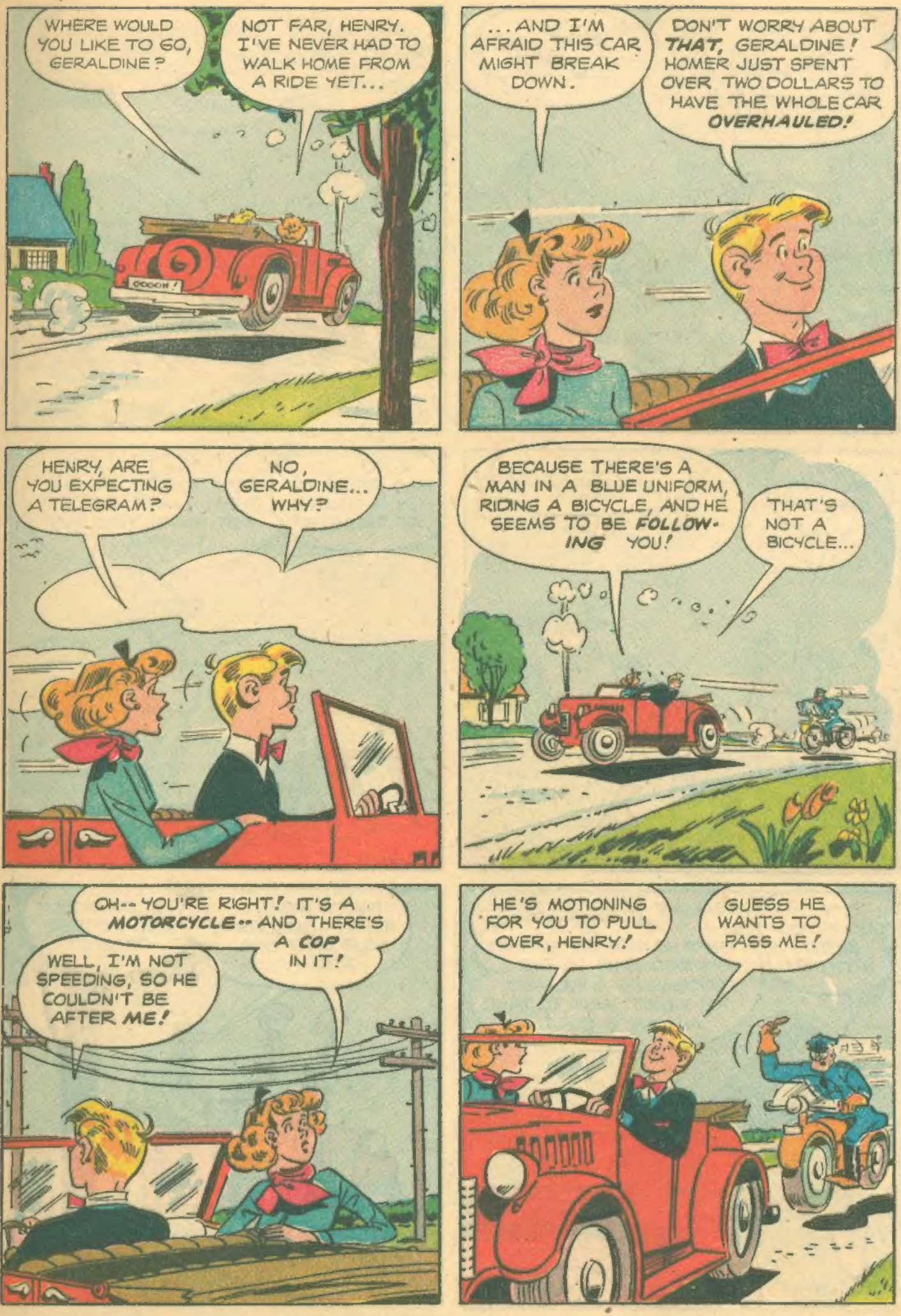
"Come on over Saturday, gang," he announced, "and I'll really have something to show you!"

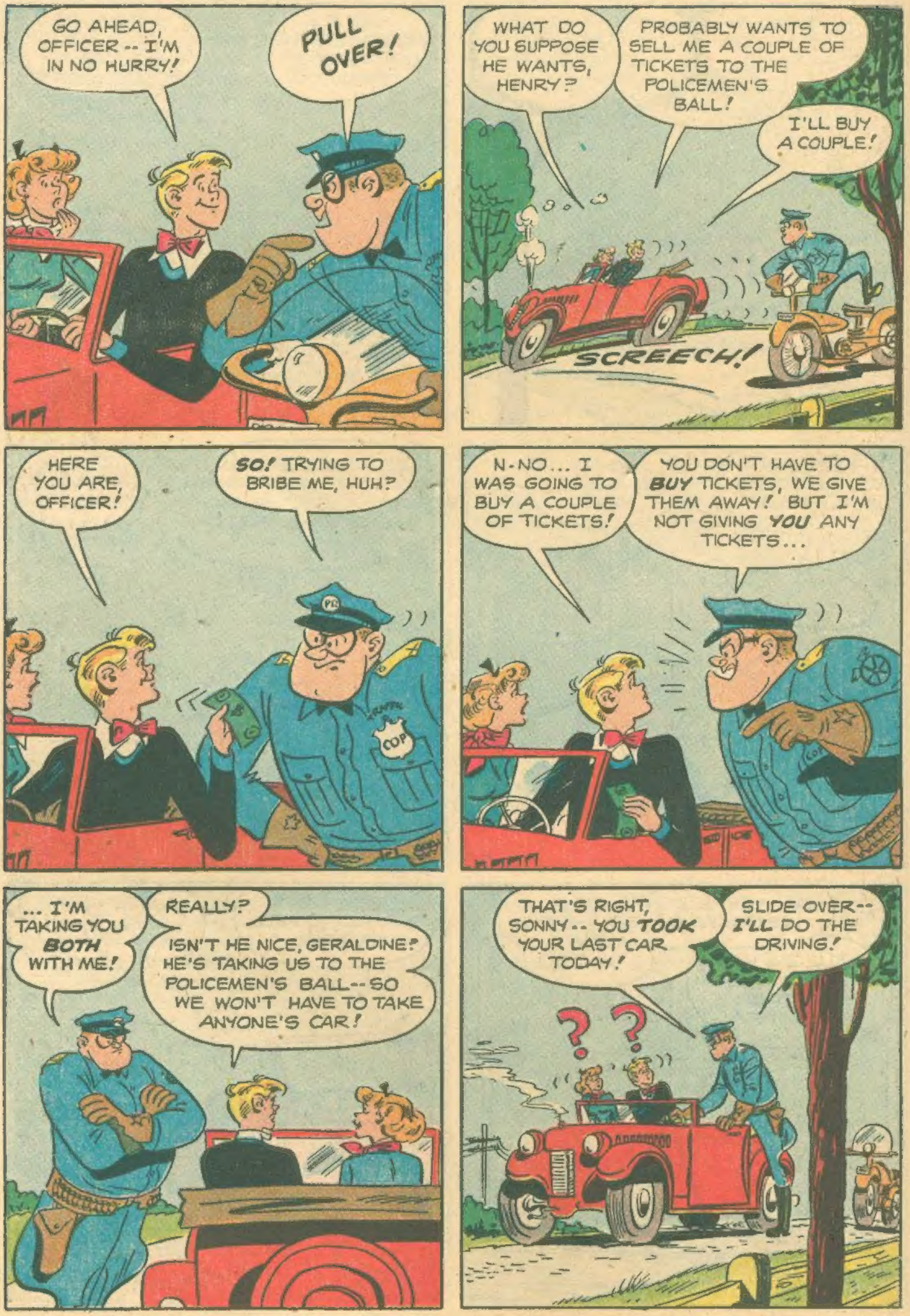
(Continued on inside back cover)

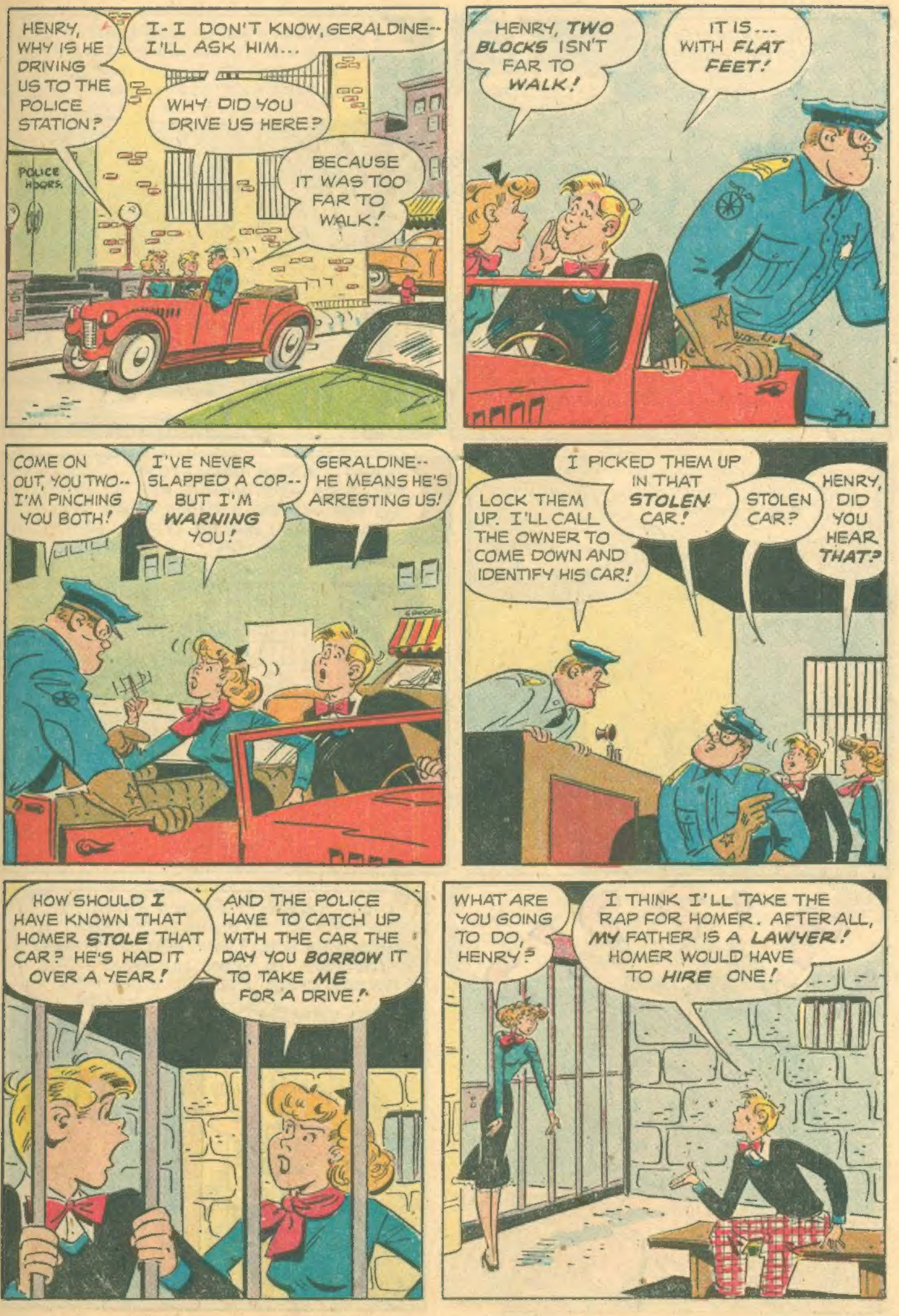
HENRY ALDRICH COMICS, No. 11, April-May, 1952. Published bi-monthly by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Subscriptions in U.S.A. 60 cents per year, single copies 10 cents. Foreign subscriptions $1.00 per year. Canadian subscriptions 60 cents per year. Copyright, 1952, by Clifford Goldsmith. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. The characters and the events portrayed in this publication are imaginary and fictitious, and any resemblance to actual happenings and persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

HENRY ALDRICH
HOMER, WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I INVITE GERALDINE TO GO FOR A RIDE IN YOUR CAR?
WHY, SURE, HENRY! ANYTHING FOR A PAL!
Bill Williams
THANKS, HOMER.
QUITE ALL RIGHT, HENRY.
SLAM!
SURE NICE OF HOMER TO LEND ME HIS CAR, SO I CAN INVITE GERALDINE TO GO FOR A DRIVE!
ZOOP
H.R. 11-524

OH, BOY-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER HENRY, BUT HE'S CERTAINLY GENEROUS WITH GERALDINE. IMAGINE-- HE'S INVITING HER TO GO FOR A RIDE WITH ME IN MY CAR!
I'LL GO PICK HER UP RIGHT AWAY!
YIV! MY CAR IS GONE-- STOLEN!
Y-YES, SIR-- STOLEN FROM RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE!
DON'T WORRY-- WE'LL FIND IT FOR YOU!
MEANWHILE...
OH, I'D LOVE TO GO FOR A RIDE WITH YOU, HENRY-- BUT MY FATHER WON'T LEND YOU HIS CAR ANYMORE!
I DON'T NEED YOUR FATHER'S CAR, GERALDINE...
?
...HOMER LOANED ME HIS!

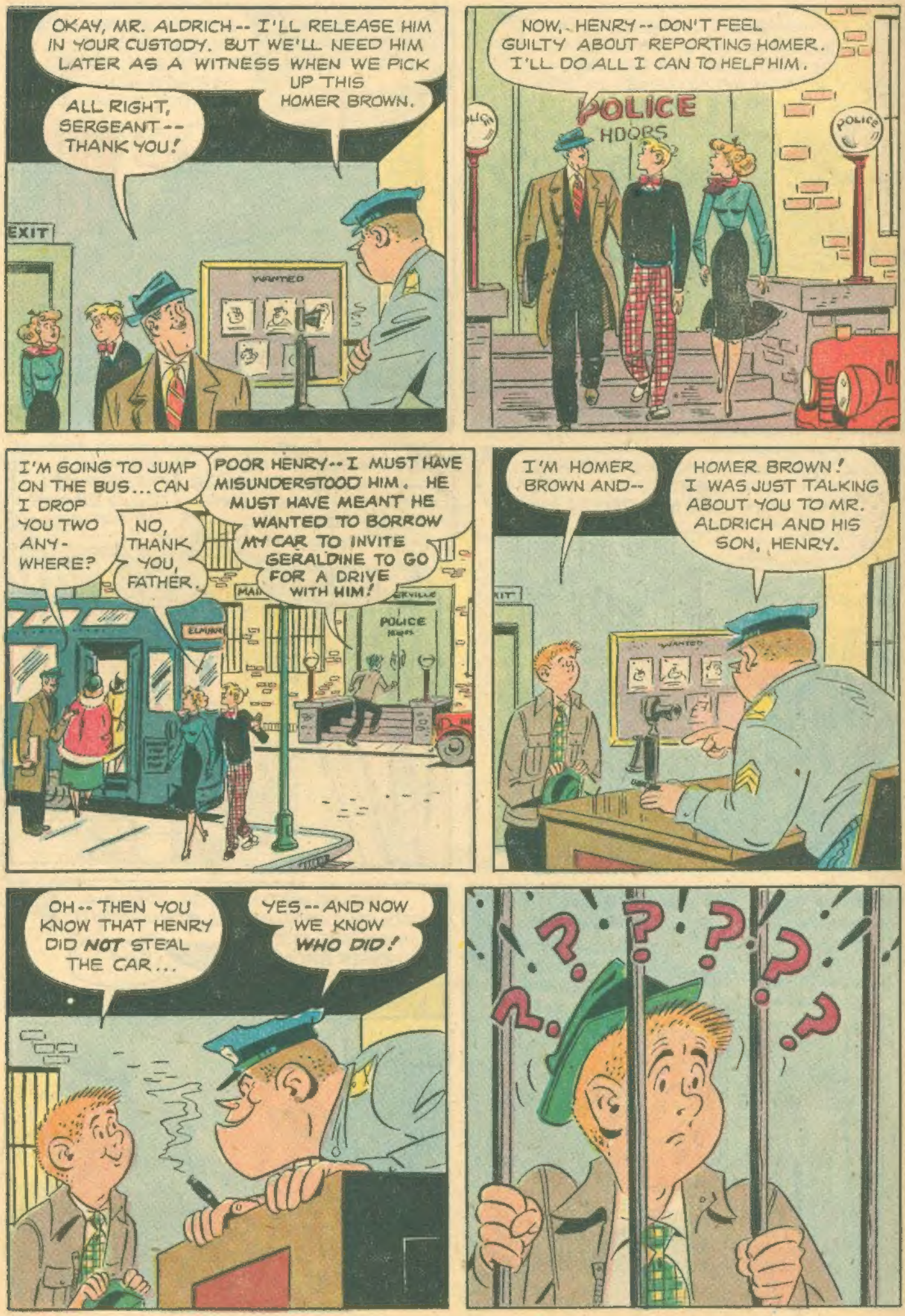

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO, GERALDINE?
NOT FAR, HENRY. I'VE NEVER HAD TO WALK HOME FROM A RIDE YET...
...AND I'M AFRAID THIS CAR MIGHT BREAK DOWN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT *THAT*, GERALDINE! HOMER JUST SPENT OVER TWO DOLLARS TO HAVE THE WHOLE CAR *OVERHAULED!*
HENRY, ARE YOU EXPECTING A TELEGRAM?
NO, GERALDINE... WHY?
BECAUSE THERE'S A MAN IN A BLUE UNIFORM, RIDING A BICYCLE, AND HE SEEMS TO BE *FOLLOWING* YOU!
THAT'S NOT A BICYCLE...
OH-- YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S A *MOTORCYCLE*-- AND THERE'S A *COP* IN IT!
WELL, I'M NOT SPEEDING, SO HE COULDN'T BE AFTER *ME!*
HE'S MOTIONING FOR YOU TO PULL OVER, HENRY!
GUESS HE WANTS TO PASS ME!

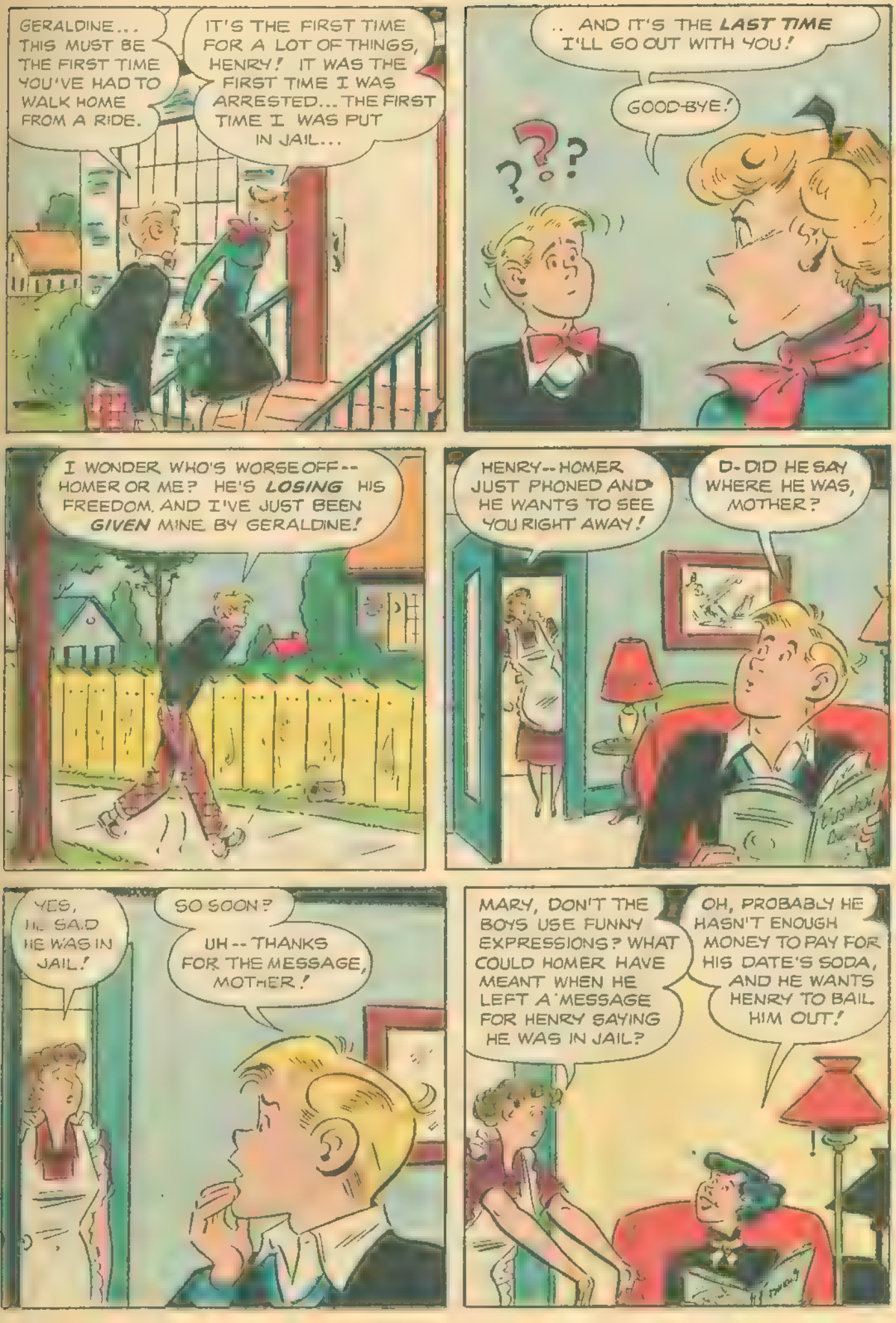

GO AHEAD, OFFICER -- I'M IN NO HURRY!
PULL OVER!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE WANTS, HENRY?
PROBABLY WANTS TO SELL ME A COUPLE OF TICKETS TO THE POLICEMEN'S BALL!
I'LL BUY A COUPLE!
SCREECH!
HERE YOU ARE, OFFICER!
SO! TRYING TO BRIBE ME, HUH?
COP
N-NO... I WAS GOING TO BUY A COUPLE OF TICKETS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY TICKETS, WE GIVE THEM AWAY! BUT I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY TICKETS...
... I'M TAKING YOU BOTH WITH ME!
REALLY?
ISN'T HE NICE, GERALDINE? HE'S TAKING US TO THE POLICEMEN'S BALL -- SO WE WON'T HAVE TO TAKE ANYONE'S CAR!
THAT'S RIGHT, SONNY -- YOU TOOK YOUR LAST CAR TODAY!
SLIDE OVER -- I'LL DO THE DRIVING!

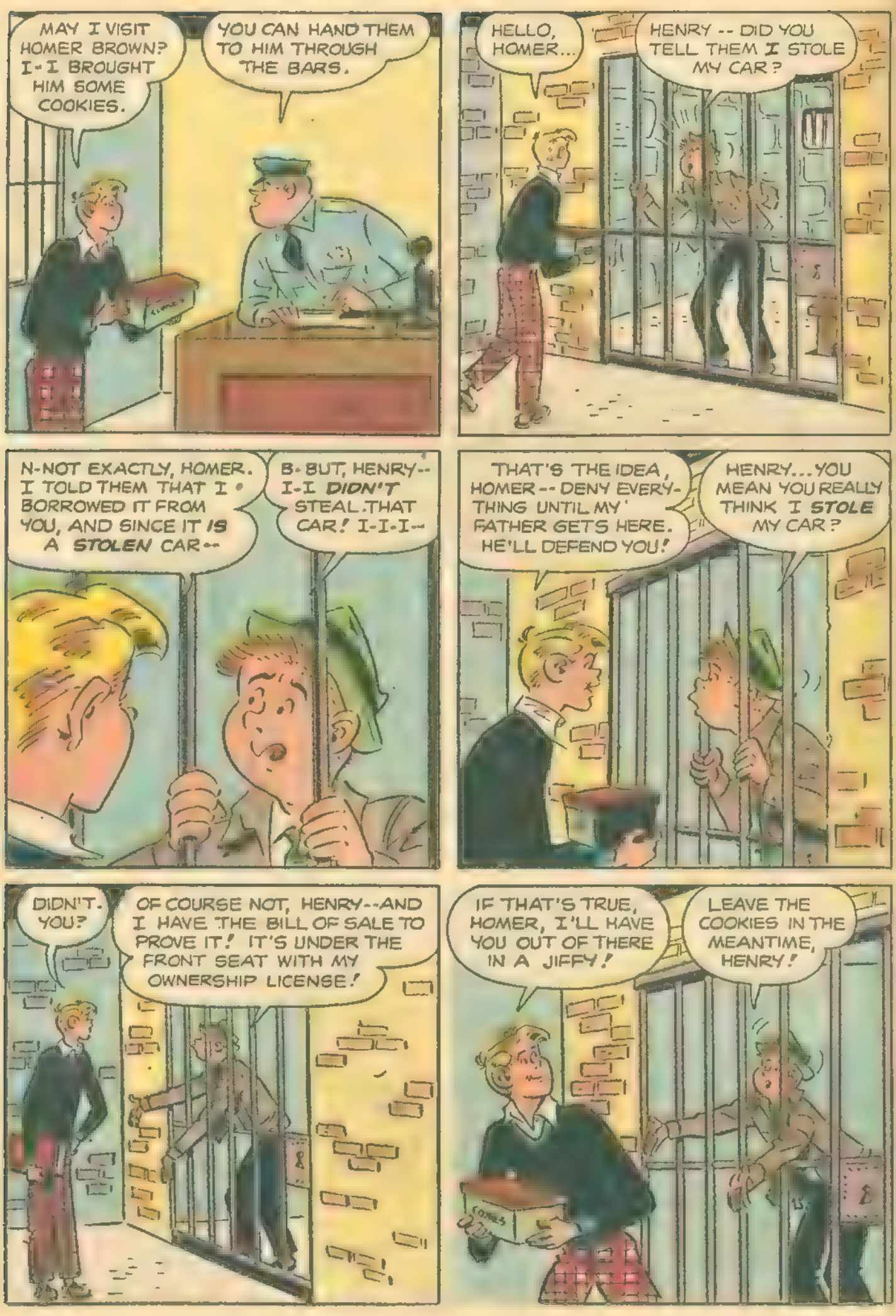

HENRY, WHY IS HE DRIVING US TO THE POLICE STATION?
I-I DON'T KNOW, GERALDINE-- I'LL ASK HIM...
WHY DID YOU DRIVE US HERE?
BECAUSE IT WAS TOO FAR TO WALK!
POLICE HDQRS.
HENRY, TWO BLOCKS ISN'T FAR TO WALK!
IT IS... WITH FLAT FEET!
COME ON OUT, YOU TWO-- I'M PINCHING YOU BOTH!
I'VE NEVER SLAPPED A COP-- BUT I'M WARNING YOU!
GERALDINE-- HE MEANS HE'S ARRESTING US!
LOCK THEM UP. I'LL CALL THE OWNER TO COME DOWN AND IDENTIFY HIS CAR!
I PICKED THEM UP IN THAT STOLEN CAR!
STOLEN CAR?
HENRY, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HOW SHOULD I HAVE KNOWN THAT HOMER STOLE THAT CAR? HE'S HAD IT OVER A YEAR!
AND THE POLICE HAVE TO CATCH UP WITH THE CAR THE DAY YOU BORROW IT TO TAKE ME FOR A DRIVE!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, HENRY?
I THINK I'LL TAKE THE RAP FOR HOMER. AFTER ALL, MY FATHER IS A LAWYER! HOMER WOULD HAVE TO HIRE ONE!

HELLO... THIS IS POLICE HEADQUARTERS. SOMEONE PHONED FROM THIS NUMBER TO REPORT A STOLEN CAR--
I DID! DID YOU FIND IT?... YOU DID? AND YOU LOCKED UP THE CAR THIEVES? SERVES THEM RIGHT!
I'D BETTER PICK UP GERALDINE AND ASK HER TO WALK ME TO THE POLICE STATION TO GET MY CAR, SO I CAN TAKE HER FOR A DRIVE...
NO, HOMER-- GERALDINE ISN'T HOME. HENRY TOOK HER FOR A DRIVE.
HENRY?
HMPH... A FINE FRIEND HE IS .. TELLS ME HE'S INVITING HER TO GO FOR A RIDE WITH ME IN MY CAR-- THEN WALKS OFF WITH HER!
?!?!?!
D-DID YOU SAY HENRY TOOK GERALDINE FOR A DRIVE?... IN WHOSE CAR?
I DON'T KNOW... I BELIEVE I HEARD HIM SAY HE DIDN'T NEED MY HUSBAND'S CAR. HE HAD BORROWED ONE ALREADY.

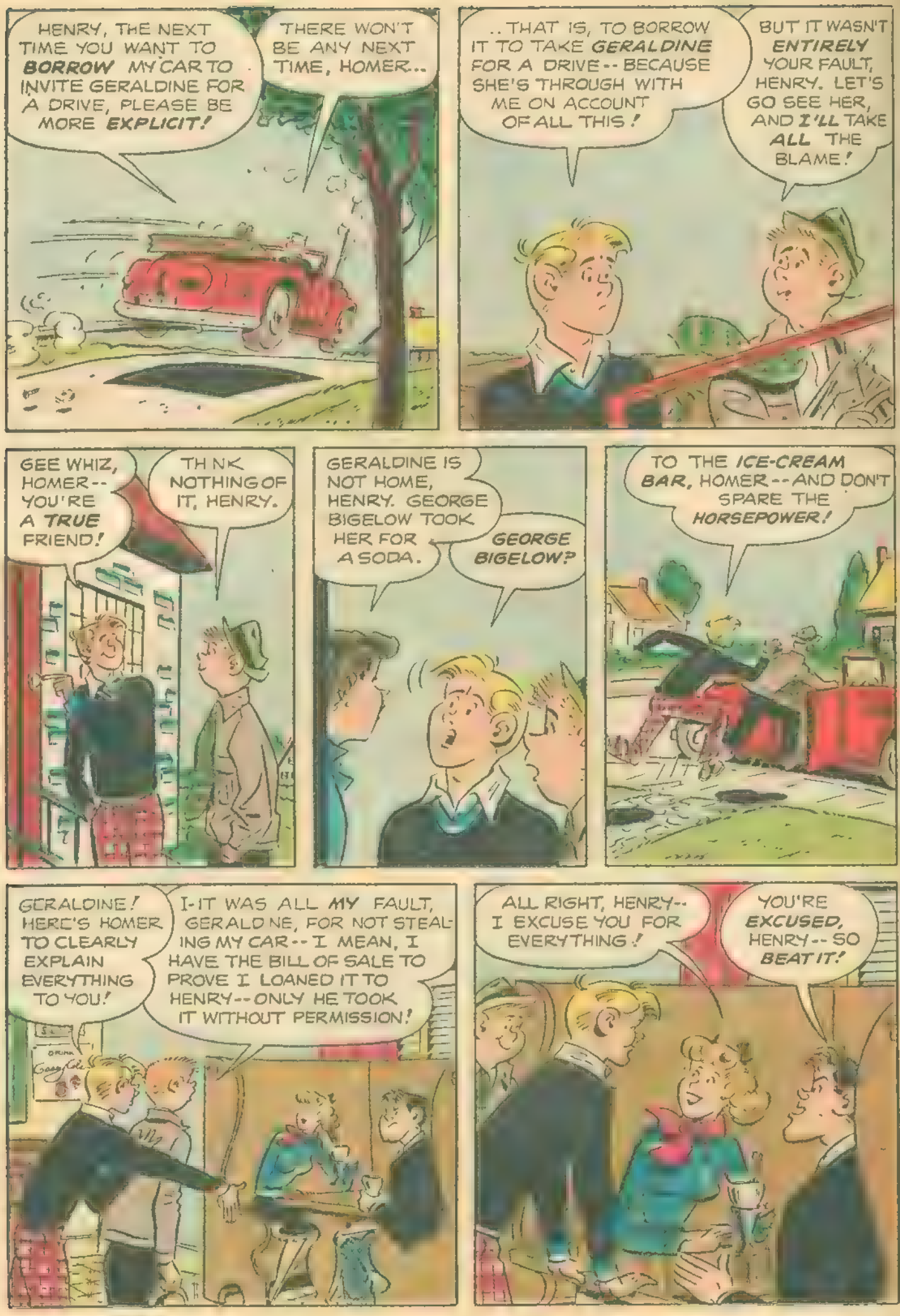
OH, MY GOSH! IF HENRY TOOK GERALDINE FOR A DRIVE AND HE DIDN'T BORROW HER FATHER'S CAR, I SURE HOPE HE BORROWED HIS FATHER'S CAR!
MR. ALDRICH IS NOT IN -- CAN I HELP YOU?
:PUFF: Y-YES... DO YOU KNOW IF HENRY WAS DRIVING HIS FATHER'S CAR TODAY? :PUFF:
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE A FRIEND OF HENRY'S, I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT TO TELL YOU THAT I'M SURE HENRY WAS NOT DRIVING HIS FATHER'S CAR-- BECAUSE HENRY IS NOW IN JAIL FOR DRIVING A STOLEN CAR!
? ? ??
MEANWHILE...
BUT IF HOMER IS THE CAR THIEF, WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE THE BLAME?
BECAUSE I FIGURED YOU COULD SPRING ME, FATHER!
SPRING YOU? I'M NOT A COIL MANUFACTURER! I'M A REPUTABLE LAWYER! NOW LET'S GO TELL THE SERGEANT THE TRUTH!
IF YOU SAY SO, FATHER.
... AND HE HAD NO IDEA IT WAS A STOLEN CAR WHEN HE BORROWED IT FROM HIS FRIEND HOMER BROWN.
HMM...

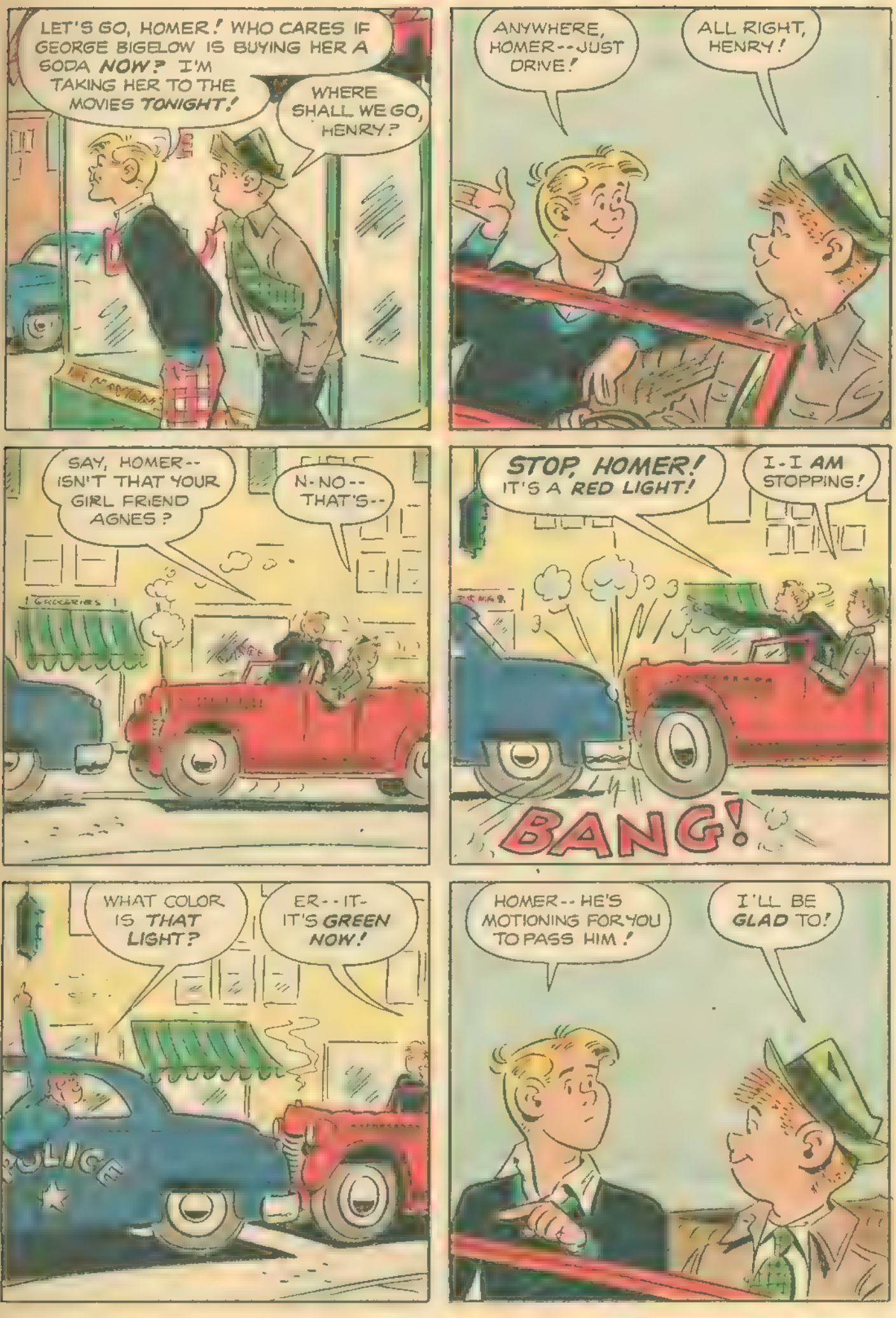

OKAY, MR. ALDRICH -- I'LL RELEASE HIM IN YOUR CUSTODY. BUT WE'LL NEED HIM LATER AS A WITNESS WHEN WE PICK UP THIS HOMER BROWN.
ALL RIGHT, SERGEANT -- THANK YOU!
EXIT
WANTED
NOW, HENRY -- DON'T FEEL GUILTY ABOUT REPORTING HOMER. I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO HELP HIM.
POLICE
HDQRS
I'M GOING TO JUMP ON THE BUS... CAN I DROP YOU TWO ANY-WHERE?
NO, THANK YOU, FATHER.
POOR HENRY -- I MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD HIM. HE MUST HAVE MEANT HE WANTED TO BORROW MY CAR TO INVITE GERALDINE TO GO FOR A DRIVE WITH HIM!
POLICE
I'M HOMER BROWN AND--
HOMER BROWN! I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU TO MR. ALDRICH AND HIS SON, HENRY.
WANTED
OH -- THEN YOU KNOW THAT HENRY DID NOT STEAL THE CAR...
YES -- AND NOW WE KNOW WHO DID!
? ? ? ? ? ?


GERALDINE... THIS MUST BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE HAD TO WALK HOME FROM A RIDE.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME FOR A LOT OF THINGS, HENRY! IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I WAS ARRESTED... THE FIRST TIME I WAS PUT IN JAIL...
.. AND IT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU!
GOOD-BYE!
I WONDER WHO'S WORSE OFF -- HOMER OR ME? HE'S LOSING HIS FREEDOM, AND I'VE JUST BEEN GIVEN MINE BY GERALDINE!
HENRY -- HOMER JUST PHONED AND HE WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY!
D-DID HE SAY WHERE HE WAS, MOTHER?
YES, HE SAID HE WAS IN JAIL!
SO SOON?
UH -- THANKS FOR THE MESSAGE, MOTHER!
MARY, DON'T THE BOYS USE FUNNY EXPRESSIONS? WHAT COULD HOMER HAVE MEANT WHEN HE LEFT A MESSAGE FOR HENRY SAYING HE WAS IN JAIL?
OH, PROBABLY HE HASN'T ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR HIS DATE'S SODA, AND HE WANTS HENRY TO BAIL HIM OUT!


MAY I VISIT HOMER BROWN? I-I BROUGHT HIM SOME COOKIES.
YOU CAN HAND THEM TO HIM THROUGH THE BARS.
HELLO, HOMER...
HENRY -- DID YOU TELL THEM I STOLE MY CAR?
N-NOT EXACTLY, HOMER. I TOLD THEM THAT I BORROWED IT FROM YOU, AND SINCE IT IS A STOLEN CAR--
B-BUT, HENRY-- I-I DIDN'T STEAL THAT CAR! I-I-I--
THAT'S THE IDEA, HOMER -- DENY EVERYTHING UNTIL MY FATHER GETS HERE. HE'LL DEFEND YOU!
HENRY... YOU MEAN YOU REALLY THINK I STOLE MY CAR?
DIDN'T. YOU?
OF COURSE NOT, HENRY--AND I HAVE THE BILL OF SALE TO PROVE IT! IT'S UNDER THE FRONT SEAT WITH MY OWNERSHIP LICENSE!
IF THAT'S TRUE, HOMER, I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE IN A JIFFY!
LEAVE THE COOKIES IN THE MEANTIME, HENRY!

HOMER'S RIGHT-- THEY'RE HERE!
HEY, YOU!!
HUH...?
SARGE, I CAUGHT HIM TRYING TO STEAL THE SEAT OF THAT STOLEN CAR!
I-I WAS ONLY LOOKING FOR THE BILL OF SALE AND THE OWNERSHIP LICENSE, SO I COULD SHOW THEM TO YOU!
HMM... ACCORDING TO THESE, HOMER BROWN IS THE OWNER OF THIS CAR!
THEN HE DIDN'T STEAL HIS CAR!
COME ON OUT, BROWN -- YOU'RE A FREE MAN!
HAVE A COOKIE!
AND JUST TO SHOW THERE'S NO HARD FEELINGS, YOU CAN KEEP THE WHOLE BOX!
THANKS!

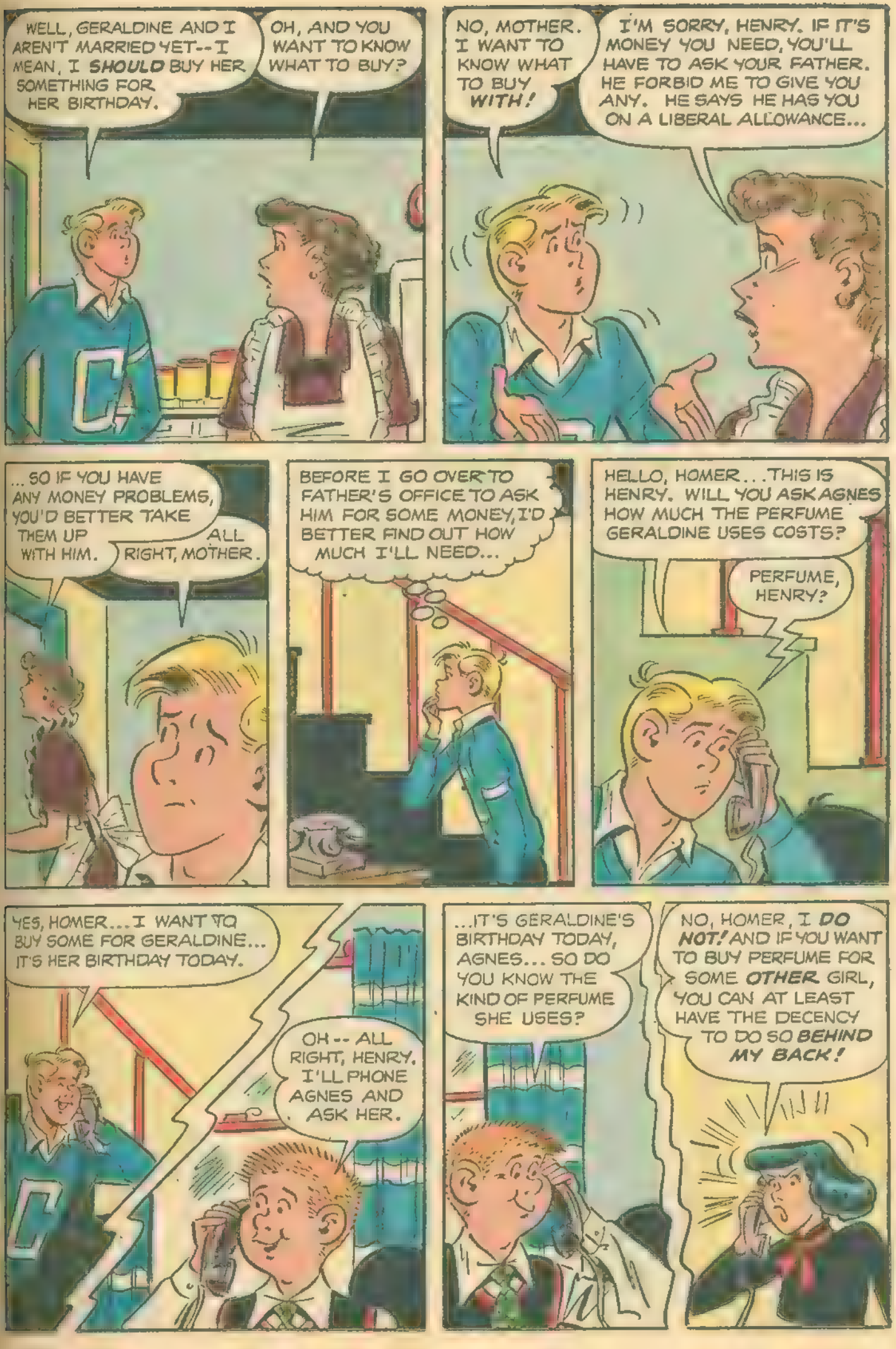

HENRY, THE NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO BORROW MY CAR TO INVITE GERALDINE FOR A DRIVE, PLEASE BE MORE EXPLICIT!
THERE WON'T BE ANY NEXT TIME, HOMER..
..THAT IS, TO BORROW IT TO TAKE GERALDINE FOR A DRIVE -- BECAUSE SHE'S THROUGH WITH ME ON ACCOUNT OF ALL THIS!
BUT IT WASN'T ENTIRELY YOUR FAULT, HENRY. LET'S GO SEE HER, AND I'LL TAKE ALL THE BLAME!
GEE WHIZ, HOMER -- YOU'RE A TRUE FRIEND!
TH NK NOTHING OF IT, HENRY.
GERALDINE IS NOT HOME, HENRY. GEORGE BIGELOW TOOK HER FOR A SODA.
GEORGE BIGELOW?
TO THE ICE-CREAM BAR, HOMER -- AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSEPOWER!
GERALDINE! HERE'S HOMER TO CLEARLY EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU!
I-IT WAS ALL MY FAULT, GERALDINE, FOR NOT STEALING MY CAR -- I MEAN, I HAVE THE BILL OF SALE TO PROVE I LOANED IT TO HENRY -- ONLY HE TOOK IT WITHOUT PERMISSION!
ALL RIGHT, HENRY -- I EXCUSE YOU FOR EVERYTHING!
YOU'RE EXCUSED, HENRY -- SO BEAT IT!


LET'S GO, HOMER! WHO CARES IF GEORGE BIGELOW IS BUYING HER A SODA NOW? I'M TAKING HER TO THE MOVIES TONIGHT!
WHERE SHALL WE GO, HENRY?
ANYWHERE, HOMER--JUST DRIVE!
ALL RIGHT, HENRY!
SAY, HOMER--ISN'T THAT YOUR GIRL FRIEND AGNES?
N-NO--THAT'S--
STOP, HOMER! IT'S A RED LIGHT!
I-I AM STOPPING!
BANG!
WHAT COLOR IS THAT LIGHT?
ER--IT-IT'S GREEN NOW!
POLICE
HOMER--HE'S MOTIONING FOR YOU TO PASS HIM!
I'LL BE GLAD TO!

PULL UP OVER THERE!
Y-YESSIR!
NOW, HENRY--LET ME HANDLE THIS!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY, HOMER?
NOTHING! I'M JUST GOING TO LISTEN!
SQEEP!
SCREECH!
LUCKY THING FOR YOU, YOU ONLY BUMPED MY BUMPER! NEXT TIME, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
ALL RIGHT NOW-- BEAT IT!!
SEE, HENRY? YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW NOT TO TALK TO THESE COPS!
HOMER, YOU HAD THE GEAR SHIFT IN REVERSE!
OOPS!
? ? ?
CRASH!
JUST FOR THAT, I'M PULLING YOU IN!
? ?

SARGE-- THESE KIDS BROKE MY HEADLIGHT!
YOU BACK HERE AGAIN?
ER--IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
COOKIES
OKAY, MURPH-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF 'EM!
RIGHT, SARGE!
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU BOTH BACK HERE!
COOKIES
YEAH-- I WANT TO THANK YOU 'BOTH FOR THIS BOX OF COOKIES...
OH-- THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
COOKIES
...AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THIS NAIL FILE WAS DOING IN THE BOX!
¡GULP!
COOKIES
W-WELL, YOU SEE--HOMER IS M-MY PAL. AND SINCE I KNEW HE WAS INNOCENT, I THOUGHT--
--YOU THOUGHT HE COULD FILE THE BARS WITH THIS, EH? WELL, IT WOULD TAKE HIM THREE YEARS TO GET THROUGH ONE BAR WITH THIS...
COOKIES
...I'M LETTING YOU BOTH GO FREE NOW! BUT THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE BROUGHT IN HERE, I'M GOING TO LOCK YOU UP WITH THIS FILE AND YOU CAN TRY GETTING YOURSELVES FREE!
COOKIES
THE END

HENRY ALDRICH
GEE WHIZ, MOTHER... DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY THIS IS?
YES, HENRY...THE DAY THE LAUNDRY GOES OUT!
CALENDAR
APRIL
IT'S ALSO GERALDINE'S BIRTHDAY!
SMALL WORLD, ISN'T IT?
ER--DID FATHER EVER FORGET YOUR BIRTHDAY, MOTHER?
FREQUENTLY, HENRY!
I MEAN BEFORE YOU WERE MARRIED.
BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED? NO. HE NEVER FORGOT MY BIRTHDAY BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED.


WELL, GERALDINE AND I AREN'T MARRIED YET--I MEAN, I SHOULD BUY HER SOMETHING FOR HER BIRTHDAY.
OH, AND YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT TO BUY?
NO, MOTHER. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT TO BUY WITH!
I'M SORRY, HENRY. IF IT'S MONEY YOU NEED, YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK YOUR FATHER. HE FORBID ME TO GIVE YOU ANY. HE SAYS HE HAS YOU ON A LIBERAL ALLOWANCE...
...SO IF YOU HAVE ANY MONEY PROBLEMS, YOU'D BETTER TAKE THEM UP WITH HIM.
ALL RIGHT, MOTHER.
BEFORE I GO OVER TO FATHER'S OFFICE TO ASK HIM FOR SOME MONEY, I'D BETTER FIND OUT HOW MUCH I'LL NEED...
HELLO, HOMER...THIS IS HENRY. WILL YOU ASK AGNES HOW MUCH THE PERFUME GERALDINE USES COSTS?
PERFUME, HENRY?
YES, HOMER...I WANT TO BUY SOME FOR GERALDINE... IT'S HER BIRTHDAY TODAY.
OH -- ALL RIGHT, HENRY. I'LL PHONE AGNES AND ASK HER.
...IT'S GERALDINE'S BIRTHDAY TODAY, AGNES... SO DO YOU KNOW THE KIND OF PERFUME SHE USES?
NO, HOMER, I DO NOT! AND IF YOU WANT TO BUY PERFUME FOR SOME OTHER GIRL, YOU CAN AT LEAST HAVE THE DECENCY TO DO SO BEHIND MY BACK!

B-BUT, AGNES--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE PERFUME IS FOR HENRY... THAT IS, HENRY WANTS TO BUY SOME FOR GERALDINE, AND HE THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW HOW MUCH IT'S GOING TO COST HIM.
OH, THAT'S DIFFERENT, HOMER. WELL...
MOMENTS LATER...
THAT MUST BE HOMER CALLING ME BACK.
HOW MUCH IS IT, HOMER?
AGNES DOESN'T KNOW THE PRICE, HENRY, BUT SHE DID TELL ME THE NAME OF THE PERFUME...
IT'S CALLED "GOOD-BYE FOREVER"!
WAIT'LL I WRITE IT DOWN, HOMER...
...THERE! THANKS A LOT, HOMER. NOW I CAN GO TO THE STORE AND FIND OUT THE COST MYSELF!
"GOOD-BYE FOREVER"... THAT'S EASY TO REMEMBER.
good-bye forever
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND OUT HOW MUCH IT IS, AND GO UP TO FATHER'S OFFICE AND ASK FOR THE MONEY...
good-bye forever
HENRY, DID YOU PHONE YOUR FATHER AND ASK HIM IF--
your
OH!
good-bye forever

SAM! SAM! COME HOME RIGHT AWAY! HENRY HAS... HAS... HE LEFT A FAREWELL NOTE!
WHAT?
Good-bye forever
N-NOW, ALICE -- D-DON'T FAINT UNTIL I GET HOME. COMPOSE YOURSELF!
SHE ALWAYS GETS S-SO EXCITED...
CRASH!
?!?
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. ALDRICH?
I-I DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO KEEP MY HAT ON MY HEAD!
MEANWHILE...
CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME HOW MUCH A BOTTLE OF "GOOD-BYE FOREVER" COSTS?
$5.00 A DRAM...$40.00 AN OUNCE.
PERF COLOGNE
Perfume de Nuit WOW!
ORDINARILY, I WOULDN'T GIVE A DRAM, BUT $5.00 IS PLENTY TO SPEND!
SHALL I GIFT WRAP IT FOR YOU?

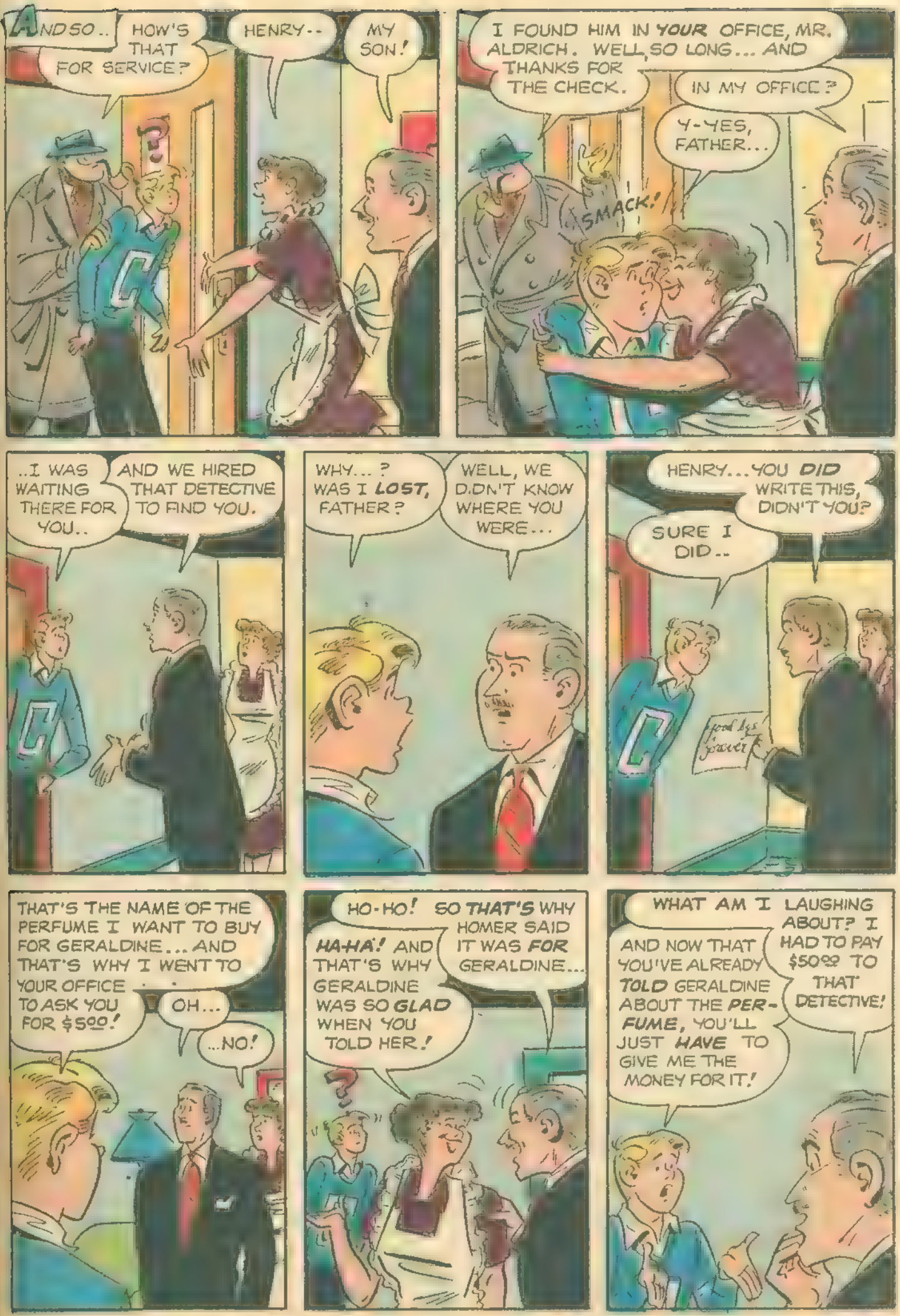
NO--JUST PUT IT ASIDE. I'M GOING UP TO MY FATHER'S OFFICE TO HIT HIM FOR $5.00.
YOU'RE GOING TO HIT YOUR FATHER FOR $5.00?
YEH... IT WAS MY MOTHER'S IDEA!
????
EXIT
WHAT A PECULIAR FAMILY... THAT BOY'S MOTHER IS GOING TO GIVE HIM $5.00 TO HIT HIS FATHER!
YOU DON'T SAY!
EXIT
HELLO, MISS WHITE...MAY I SEE MY FATHER RIGHT AWAY? IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
HE'S NOT IN, HENRY...
MR ALDRICH PRIVATE
...HE RUSHED OUT AND DIDN'T SAY WHERE HE WAS GOING OR WHEN HE'D BE BACK.
HMM... I GUESS I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR HIM.
AT THE ALDRICH HOME..
ALICE...TELL ME... WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I-I D-DON'T KNOW, S-SAM HE LEFT THIS NOTE...
WAS THERE ANY REASON FOR HENRY TO BECOME DESPONDENT?
WELL... GERALDINE'S BIRTHDAY IS TODAY.
SO WHAT? WE ALL HAVE TO GET OLD SOME TIME!
??

HENRY ASKED ME FOR SOME MONEY WITH WHICH TO BUY GERALDINE A GIFT FOR HER BIRTHDAY...
SO...?
...SO I TOLD HIM WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO TELL HIM...TO DISCUSS ALL MONEY MATTERS WITH YOU!
WELL...WHY DIDN'T HE?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? MAYBE HE FIGURED YOU'D REFUSE HIM...LIKE YOU USUALLY DO!
NOW DON'T BLAME ME, ALICE...
...AND STOP THE HYSTERICS. HE'S PROBABLY GONE OVER TO HOMER'S HOUSE.
HELLO, HOMER... THIS IS MR. ALDRICH... IS HENRY WITH YOU?
NO, MR. ALDRICH!
WELL, HE'S NOT HERE, EITHER... BUT THERE'S A PIECE OF PAPER ON WHICH HE WROTE "GOOD-BYE FOREVER"!
OH, I KNOW ABOUT THAT, MR. ALDRICH.
YOU DO?
YES...IT'S FOR GERALDINE!
?

H-HOMER SAYS THIS IS FOR GERALDINE.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, SAM?
Good-bye forever
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I'M GOING TO PHONE GERALDINE AND FIND OUT.
HER NUMBER IS CARVED INTO THE SIDE OF THE TELE-PHONE TABLE...
THIS IS MR. ALDRICH, GERALDINE! HAVE YOU SEEN HENRY TODAY?
NOT YET, MR. ALDRICH. I EXPECT TO SEE HIM...
THEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN ARGUMENT WITH HIM?
OH--I DID.... BUT I MADE UP WITH HIM IN TIME FOR MY BIRTHDAY!
WELL... HE MUST THINK YOU'RE STILL ANGRY BECAUSE HE LEFT SOME-THING HERE FOR YOU...
WHAT, MR ALDRICH?
IT SAYS "GOOD-BYE FOREVER"!
OH, HOW NICE!
WELL..?
SH-SHE SEEMED GLAD TO HEAR HE'S GONE!

ARE YOU GOING TO CALL IN THE POLICE?
NO... I DON'T WANT THIS TO BECOME A PUBLIC AFFAIR, SO I'M GOING TO CALL A PRIVATE EYE!
PRESENTLY..
HMM...
THIS IS THE ONLY GOOD PICTURE WE HAVE OF HIM.
IT CAPTURES HIS EXPRESSION RATHER WELL.
I'LL TAKE THE CASE... BUT JUST ONE MORE THING...
YES?
I'D LIKE A $50.00 CHECK IN ADVANCE-- YOU KNOW, TO COVER EXPENSES.
I DON'T HAVE MY CHECKBOOK WITH ME, BUT I'LL PHONE MY SECRETARY. SHE'LL MAKE OUT A CHECK FOR YOU AND YOU CAN PICK IT RIGHT UP...
...AND WHEN HE ARRIVES, GIVE HIM A CHECK FOR FIFTY DOLLARS.
YES, MR. ALDRICH. OH-- AND WHILE YOU WERE OUT--
NOT NOW, MISS WHITE! :CLICK:
B-BUT...
WHO WAS THAT? MY FATHER?
YES, HENRY, BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO TELL HIM YOU WERE HERE. HE CUT ME RIGHT OFF!
MAYBE THAT MEANS HE'LL BE BACK HERE SOON... I HOPE!

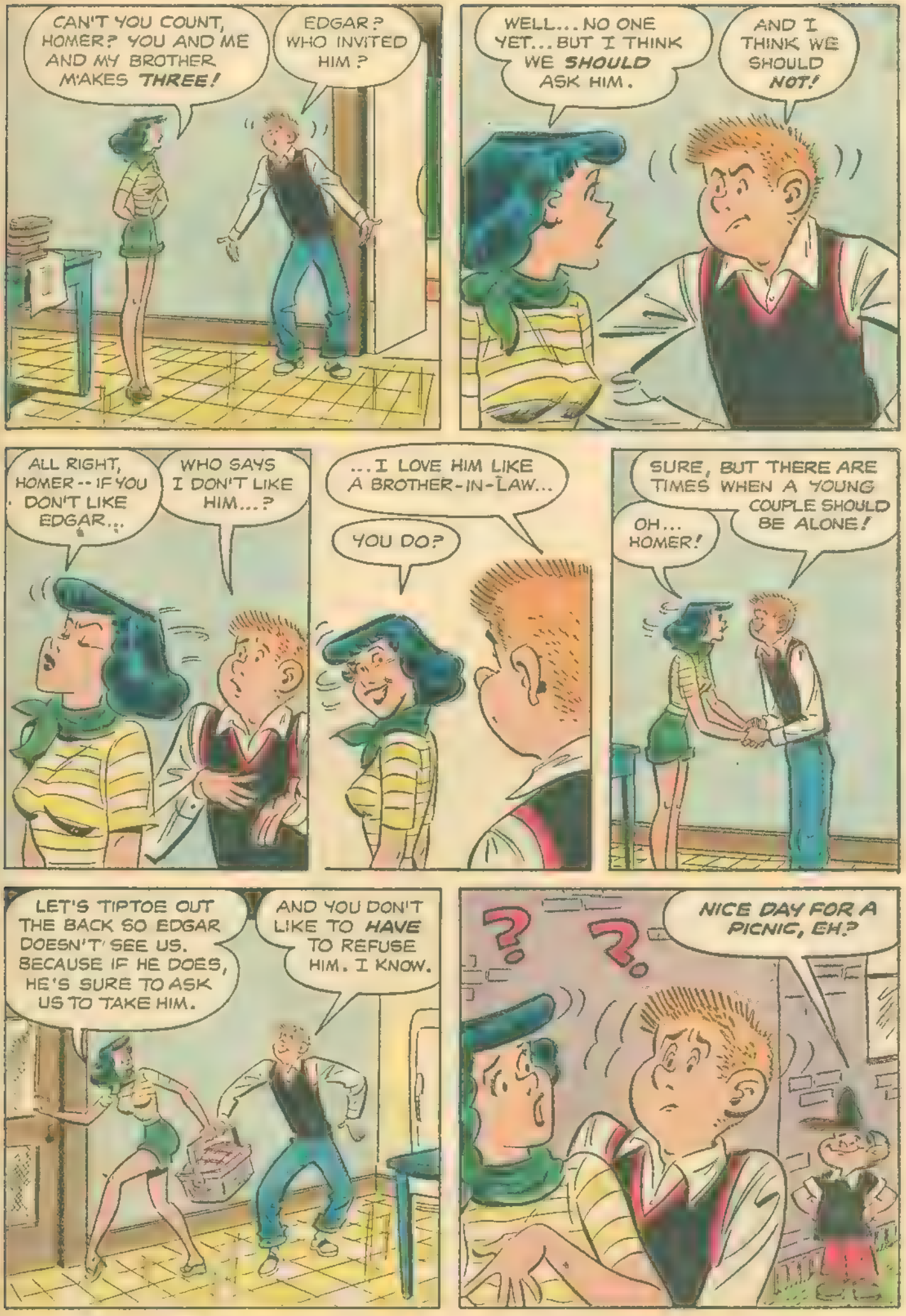
SHORTLY..
MR. ALDRICH SENT ME HERE TO PICK UP A CHECK. I'M--
HUH?
OH, YES...
THANKS!
HEY--COME HERE, YOU!
WHO--ME?
YEAH... LIE DOWN ON THE FLOOR FOR A MINUTE... THAT'S A GOOD FELLOW!
OOPS!
NOW WOULDN'T YOU SAY THAT HE BEARS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THIS PICTURE!
?
?
MAY I SEE IT, PLEASE?
SURE!
TH-THIS IS MY BABY PICTURE!
IT IS?
...THEN, BABY, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
???
?


AND SO..
HOW'S THAT FOR SERVICE?
HENRY--
MY SON!
I FOUND HIM IN YOUR OFFICE, MR. ALDRICH. WELL, SO LONG... AND THANKS FOR THE CHECK.
IN MY OFFICE?
Y-YES, FATHER...
SMACK!
..I WAS WAITING THERE FOR YOU..
AND WE HIRED THAT DETECTIVE TO FIND YOU.
WHY...? WAS I LOST, FATHER?
WELL, WE D.DN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE...
HENRY...YOU DID WRITE THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
SURE I DID..
Good Ads forever
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE PERFUME I WANT TO BUY FOR GERALDINE... AND THAT'S WHY I WENT TO YOUR OFFICE TO ASK YOU FOR $5.00!
OH...
...NO!
HO-HO! SO THAT'S WHY HOMER SAID IT WAS FOR GERALDINE...
HA-HA! AND THAT'S WHY GERALDINE WAS SO GLAD WHEN YOU TOLD HER!
WHAT AM I LAUGHING ABOUT? I HAD TO PAY $50.00 TO THAT DETECTIVE!
AND NOW THAT YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD GERALDINE ABOUT THE PERFUME, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE ME THE MONEY FOR IT!

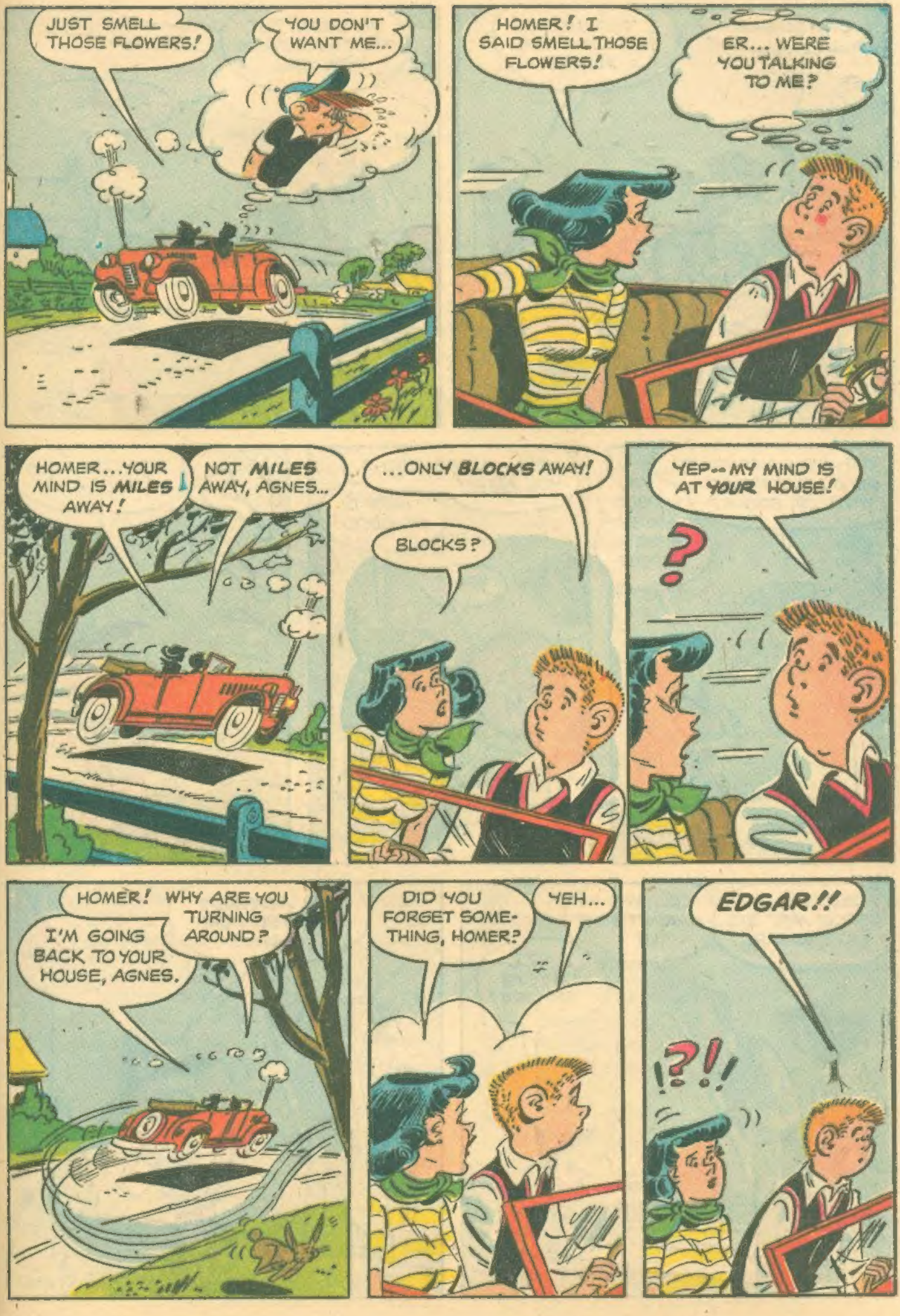
LATER.
THANKS AGAIN FOR THE PERFUME, HENRY... HERE-- HAVE A SMELL!
SURE!
OOPS!
CAREFUL!
GOLLY, HENRY-- YOU TOOK MORE THAN A SMELL.
GEE WHIZ -- YEAH.
BOY--THIS STUFF SURE STAYS WITH YOU!
HEY -- HENRY!
TEE HEE!
HELLO, HOMER!
HENRY... I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE PERFUME WAS FOR GERALDINE!!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
I DID GET IT FOR GERALDINE, BUT SOME OF IT SPILLED ON ME! AND IT'S TERRIBLY EMBARRASSING... EVERYONE IS TURNING TO LOOK AT ME!
AND AT ME, TOO! THAT STUFF MUST BE CATCHING!
THAT'S GOOD-BYE FOREVER, ISN'T IT, HENRY?
YEH...
WELL... THIS IS SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW!
THE END

HOMER
OH, BOY! WHAT A DAY FOR A PICNIC!
GOOD MORNING, FOLKS! WHAT A DAY FOR A PICNIC, EH?
A PICNIC?
HMM...
GOSH, MOTHER -- YOU SHOULDN'T BOTHER WITH A LUNCH BASKET.
NO...?
NO, AGNES WILL PREPARE OUR LUNCH!
OH, IS AGNES GOING, TOO?
SURE, MOTHER -- I'M NOT GOING ALONE!
UH--

YOUR FATHER AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUGGESTING THAT WE GO ON A PICNIC...THE THREE OF US.
BUT I'VE ALREADY MADE PLANS WITH AGNES THAT IF IT'S A NICE DAY, I'D GO ON A PICNIC WITH HER.
...BRING AGNES ALONG ON OUR PICNIC!
SHE'S MOST WELCOME.
ER...
...BUT PICNICS CAN BE SO ROMANTIC...
... SO MAYBE YOU TWO WOULD LIKE TO GO ALONE!!
? ?
I WOULDN'T MIND IF WE WENT ON A PICNIC WITH MY FOLKS-- BUT AGNES IS THE SENTIMENTAL ONE...
HI YA, AGNES! ALL READY FOR THE PICNIC?
I'M MAKING THE SANDWICHES NOW, HOMER. COME IN.
TWELVE SANDWICHES SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR THE THREE OF US, SHOULDN'T THEY, HOMER?
THE THREE OF US?


CAN'T YOU COUNT, HOMER? YOU AND ME AND MY BROTHER MAKES THREE!
EDGAR? WHO INVITED HIM?
WELL... NO ONE YET... BUT I THINK WE SHOULD ASK HIM.
AND I THINK WE SHOULD NOT!
ALL RIGHT, HOMER -- IF YOU DON'T LIKE EDGAR...
WHO SAYS I DON'T LIKE HIM...?
...I LOVE HIM LIKE A BROTHER-IN-LAW...
YOU DO?
SURE, BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A YOUNG COUPLE SHOULD BE ALONE!
OH... HOMER!
LET'S TIPTOE OUT THE BACK SO EDGAR DOESN'T SEE US. BECAUSE IF HE DOES, HE'S SURE TO ASK US TO TAKE HIM.
AND YOU DON'T LIKE TO HAVE TO REFUSE HIM. I KNOW.
?
?
NICE DAY FOR A PICNIC, EH?

Y-YES, EDGAR--IT'S A VERY NICE DAY FOR A PICNIC..HERE! WHY DON'T YOU EAT A SANDWICH IN YOUR BACK YARD?
NO THANKS, HOMER. I'D MUCH RATHER GO ON A REAL PICNIC WITH YOU AND AGNES.
W-WELL--YOU SEE, EDGAR--
HOMER HAD PLANNED THIS PICNIC FOR JUST THE TWO OF US...
OH...
OKAY--IF YOU DON'T WANT ME.
? ?
EDGAR...IT'S NOT THAT WE DON'T WANT YOU... IT'S JUST THAT WE WANT TO BE ALONE-- UNDERSTAND?
SURE... I UNDERSTAND.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU DON'T WANT ME!
?.?
EDGAR LOOKS SO LOST...
IT'S GOOD FOR HIM TO GET LOST ONCE IN A WHILE!
NOW, AGNES...IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME ON THE PICNIC, JUST STOP WORRYING ABOUT EDGAR'S FEELINGS. HE'LL GET OVER IT.
ALL RIGHT, HOMER.


JUST SMELL THOSE FLOWERS!
YOU DON'T WANT ME...
HOMER! I SAID SMELL THOSE FLOWERS!
ER... WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?
HOMER... YOUR MIND IS MILES AWAY!
NOT MILES AWAY, AGNES...
...ONLY BLOCKS AWAY!
BLOCKS?
YEP-- MY MIND IS AT YOUR HOUSE!
?
HOMER! WHY ARE YOU TURNING AROUND?
I'M GOING BACK TO YOUR HOUSE, AGNES.
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING, HOMER?
YEH...
EDGAR!!
!?!

OH-- EDGAR--
I THOUGHT YOU TWO LEFT FOR A PICNIC!
WE DID... BUT WE CAME BACK FOR YOU.
FER ME...?
YES--WE WANT YOU TO GO ON THE PICNIC WITH US, EDGAR!
YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED ME BEFORE--
WELL--WE'RE ASKING YOU NOW!
NOW IS NO GOOD!
WHY?
!?!?!
BECAUSE NOW IS TOO LATE!
BUT IT'S REALLY NOT TOO LATE, EDGAR...
NO... WE HAVEN'T GONE YET.
I TELL YOU IT IS TOO LATE!
I'VE ALREADY PRAYED FOR RAIN!!
THE END

(Continued from inside front cover)

Homer Brown laughed. "Gee whiz, Henry, do you mean to say you'll have vegetables to eat by then?"

"No, Homer," said Henry. "I just thought you'd all like to see the beginning of a real vegetable garden!"

As it turned out, most of the class *did* want to see the beginning of a real vegetable garden. Even the fact that the General Science teacher had strongly recommended the trip, did not mar their bright spirits.

Henry was in form. He held forth on the cultivation, the drainage, principles of pest control, and how and why he had put the onions here, cabbage down there, corn over there. He covered every detail of how he was "wresting a livelihood from the soil."

Then, suddenly, as she was inspecting the tender green leaves in the radish row, Geraldine made a startling discovery! "Henry," she cried, "what is this, a big joke?"

"Joke, Geraldine? I don't understand . . ."

"Henry, these aren't radishes. These are *beans!*"

"And these, too!" said Homer, who'd been looking at the carrots. "I'd know a baby bean plant anywhere."

"Beans here, too," Willy announced from the lettuce section.

Yes, every row, the whole garden in fact, was beans, beans, beans!

Geraldine was indignant and accused Henry of doing it all on purpose. Not listening to his protests of innocence, she strode off with her friends.

"Haw, haw," laughed George Bigelow, "Henry Aldrich's bean patch! Haw, haw!"

****

By the next week, all of Centerville High knew about the bean patch, and poor Henry was joked and joshed continually. He began to wish he'd never even heard of a bean.

Still, he took care of his project grimly and eventually harvested a tremendous crop of beans. The Aldrich family ate as much as they could. Their neighbors, too, were supplied with seemingly endless quantities, but still only a mere fraction of the total was consumed.

Henry was just about to reach the point where he couldn't face another single bean, when fate stepped in.

Mr. Bronson, Centerville's Principal, came rushing into the garden patch just as Henry was hauling off several stuffed bushel baskets

of the "things" as his family had started to call them. Henry's father had made the situation worse, only the previous evening, by pounding on the table and shouting in true parental style: "If I see one more bean on my dinner table, Henry, I'm going to rent you out to a bean farmer for the rest of the summer." Henry was about to protest about "initiative" or "self-reliance" but thought better of it and subsided into a reserved, "Yes, sir."

"Henry, Henry, my boy," Mr. Bronson began, "I've heard about your wonderful experiment and I have a wonderful idea how we can utilize the fruits of your labor and at the same time popularize your splendid effort." Henry was a little amazed but anything to get rid of the beans was good enough for him. Henry and Mr. Bronson stood out in the middle of the bean patch for quite a while talking. Finally, Mr. Bronson went off with a pleased look and Henry started harvesting the last of the beans with renewed interest.

****

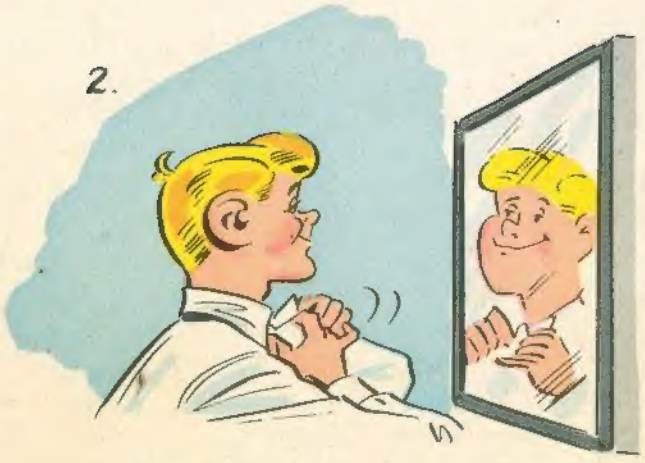
That evening at the "Fathers and Sons" supper at the high school, Mr. Aldrich and Henry were seated in places of honor on either side of Mr. Bronson. Mr. Aldrich's wonderment about this soon turned to pleasure as Mr. Bronson began to speak.

"Gentlemen," he said, "to show our recognition and appreciation of the fine endeavors of one of our young men, the banquet this evening will consist of a tasty dish of Boston baked beans supplied to us by Henry Aldrich."

Amidst cheers and applause, Henry arose and bowed modestly and Mr. Aldrich beamed proudly. When they had finished the beans that were placed before them, Mr. Aldrich looked over at Henry, winked, sighed contentedly, and remarked, "I could never have enough of these beans now."

1.

2.



3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.